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JOINT NOTE VERBALE DATED 17 SEPTEMBER 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Georgia to the United Nations and the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations present their compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and have the honour to request that the joint letter dated 7 September 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Georgia, Mr. A. D. Chikvaidze, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Mr. A. V. Kozyrev, addressed to the Secretary-General (see enclosure) be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Joint letter dated 13 September 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations and the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a joint letter dated 7 September 1993 addressed to you by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Mr. A. D. Chikvaidze, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, Mr. A. V. Kozyrev (see enclosure).

(Signed) P. CHKHEIDZE
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Georgia
to the United Nations

(Signed) Yu. VORONTSOV
Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

Enclosure

[Original: Russian]

Joint letter dated 7 September 1993 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Georgia and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation addressed to the Secretary-General

Our letter to you is motivated by the persisting unstable situation in the area of the Abkhaz conflict and by our desire to give new impetus to the peace process in Abkhazia, with the active participation of the United Nations.

The first steps along the path to peace have already been taken. The Sochi cease-fire agreement of 27 July 1993 is generally being observed. The withdrawal of troops and matériel is continuing and the process of separating the opposing forces has begun. This is being considerably facilitated by the hard work performed by the tripartite Russian-Georgian-Abkhaz bodies set up pursuant to the Sochi agreement, namely, the Joint Commission on the settlement in Abkhazia and the interim monitoring groups. They have been joined in these efforts by the advance team of United Nations Observers, whose deployment marks an important step forward in promoting implementation of the agreement.

It is clear to us that the durability of the cease-fire regime will depend to a large extent on the effective involvement of the international community in ensuring its observance. Favourable conditions for this have been created by resolutions 849 (1993) and 854 (1993) of the United Nations Security Council. It is our hope that, at this crucial stage, the international community, acting through the United Nations, will manifest its full support for the quest for peace.

The Russian Federation and Georgia strongly believe in the imperative need for the speediest possible deployment to Abkhazia of full contingent of United Nations Observers, in accordance with your recommendations, and we welcome the recent adoption of Security Council resolution 858 (1993) on this matter. It is essential that the United Nations observers should cooperate as closely as possible with the interim monitoring groups of the Joint Commission.

In order to ensure that the stated goals are effectively attained, we are prepared to consider merging these groups (which could, if necessary, be "reinforced") with the United Nations Observer Mission to Georgia (UNOMIG), and making the machinery as a whole answerable to the Security Council.

Since the situation remains precarious, additional measures may be necessary. The chances of definitively ending the conflict will be increased with the deployment of international peace-keeping forces. In accordance with the letter sent to you on 8 August 1993 by the Joint Commission on the settlement in Abkhazia, their numerical strength and composition could be determined by agreement between the sides. If necessary, the Russian military contingent temporarily deployed in the conflict zone could be used for these purposes at the initial stage. In this connection, we are in favour of starting substantive consultations with the United Nations as provided for by article 5

of the cease-fire agreement and paragraph 6 of your report of 6 August 1993 (S/26250).

Naturally the measures which we propose above must go hand in hand with the opening of negotiations, as soon as possible, on a comprehensive settlement of the conflict under the auspices of the United Nations and with the Russian Federation as facilitator.

We request that you take due account of these considerations when submitting your recommendations to the Security Council.

A. KOZYREV
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Russian Federation

A. CHIKVAIDZE
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Georgia